

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled. New claims 9-18 are directed to methods of constructing a multilayer cathode backplate. Support is found throughout the application, but more particularly on page 5, line 1-page 7, line 28. No new matter has been added.

In order to move to an early allowance, Applicant would like to take this opportunity to discuss just how the present invention is novel over a reference (Yang et al. U.S. Patent 5,496,200) cited in the parent application (U.S. Serial Number 09/381,540).

The present invention is directed to conductive “thick film” materials and processing methods to make multiple cathode structures on the backplate of a field emission display. The specific processes are (1) diffusion patterning techniques, (2) photoprintable composition, and (3) high strength glass/ceramic tape. All the materials and processes are well known in the electronics industry. What is new is that it is used to make the backplate structures. Before this inventive approach of using thick film technology, thin film technology techniques were used. Such thin film technology processes included thin film sputtering, etching, and chemical vapor deposition which are the same technologies used to make integrated circuits. Therefore, the present invention is new and novel because it deviates from the typical industry approach. It was found that thick film technology works. For example, such thick film materials and processes as described in the present application allow finer features and give better resolution to the cathodes than previously used thin film methods.

Yang discloses chemical vapor deposition to manufacture its patterned layers. (Please see Col. 2, lines 36-48 of Yang.) As described above, chemical vapor deposition is a process used with “thin” film materials and is outside the scope of the present application.

Therefore, Yang does not anticipate nor render the present invention obvious for all the reasons set forth in this Preliminary Amendment.

Accordingly, a patentable advance in the art is submitted to be present for all claims under prosecution. A Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lois A. Santopietro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lois" and last name "Santopietro" clearly legible.

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